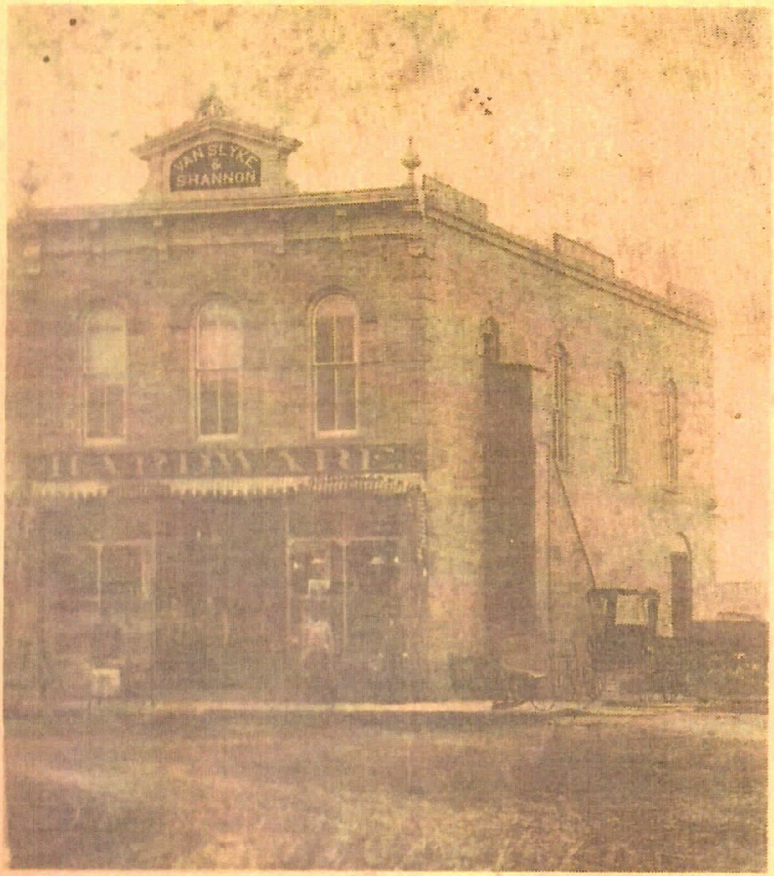
# IN THE BEGINNING

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Woodson County Historical Society
Yates Center, Kansas
**Vol. 11 - No. 42**

**IN THE BEGINNING**

Vol. 11 - No. 42 April, 1978

*Lester A. Harding, Editor*

**EDITOR'S NOTES —**

We have mentioned in previous copies that the red cross in a box has had good results of those who have not paid up their subscription to "In The Beginning". There are still quite a few who have not responded to our request. Those who may receive this issue who have not paid up will know that this one will be the last until the subscription is paid. We have not done this before and have lost the payment on quite a few. The ones sent through the mail do not pay their way in the first place but the difference is made up in other ways.

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Our cover picture this issue is one of the Van Slyke & Shannon Hardware store. This partnership operated this hardware store during the years of 1881-83. Shortly after they disolved partnership, J. N. Shannon moved to a farm in Everett Twp. and started the town of Vernon a few years later. This hardware store was just across the street from the Woodson Hotel.

**Frank Englebrecht, Sr. and five sons. Left to right: Fred, Frank, Jr., Frank, Sr., Charlie, Walter, Ralph.** Their story starts on page 14.

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Published Quarterly by
Woodson County Historical Society
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$2.50 per year 65 cents a copy

## WOODSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Organized March, 1965

The annual meeting of the Woodson County Historical Society, scheduled for January 24, 1978, was canceled due to bad weather, slick streets, and sickness. During the twelve years of the Historical Society, this was the first time that one of the meetings were canceled.

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Plans are being drawn for the possible additional space to be built at the south end of the Museum, which would also include an addition to the west side. This has been discussed by the Board of Administration but no direct action at this time. The addition to the west would be mainly for the storage of old horse-drawn implements, and hay tools.

While there are quite a few that have not paid their annual dues to the Historical Society, it looks like it may keep the usual number of members. These annual dues are due after the first of the year, as are the most of the subscriptions to the "In The Beginning." They can both be made on the same check, although they are divided to the different bank accounts.

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With the last issue of the Yates Center News, February 23, 1978, the writer and editor of In The Beginning has started his 44th year as writing the column of "Prairie Life". What a change has happened, both in the people we write about and the events that happened.

However, it was not for the News that we wrote for, but the Woodson County Post, that had just been transferred from Neosho Falls. The editor that we wrote the longest for was Harry Covert, who purchased the News and combined the two papers in October, 1942.

### IN MEMORIAM

Kenneth O. Taylor 61 February 5, 1978

Mr. Taylor held a Life Membership in the Woodson County Historical Society, although he has lived in California. He lived in Woodson County as a boy and young man.

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Join and Support the
Woodson County Historical Society
Life Membership $25.00 Regular Membership $2.00

THE CHARLES W. ROGERS FAMILY –

While this story is about George W. Rogers, it will also include his father Andrew J. and some of the other members of this family. The grandfather Thomas Rogers was a native of Tennessee, moved to Indiana in 1823. He evidently went on to Illinois where Andrew J. Rogers was born near Beardstown. Here he farmed and followed the trade of a blacksmith. Here he married Nancy Sherrill.

Andrew J. and Nancy Rogers were the parents of nine children. The most of them being born in Illinois before the family started west. The family lived in Missouri for awhile before coming to Kansas.

In 1859, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew J. Rogers came to Kansas and to the Big Sandy area. With them were the following children: James, George, Mary, Nancy, James, Malinda, and Amelia. Not long after arriving here Catherine was born. They first settled in section 23, close to where the Big Sandy Cemetery is now. The oldest son Francis evidently did not come to Kansas, with the family. This seemed to be one of the many families that was divided during the Civil War. As the war broke out Francis enlisted in the Confederate Army, and died during his service. James also died during his time in the Union Army. George W. also was in the Union Army as we will tell about later.

While we found where Andrew's wife was named Nancy, the 1860 census states her name as Betsy. Andrew J. was evidently married again before coming to Kansas as Betsy was just ten years older than James and twelve years older than George W. Also the 1870 census shows that there were two other Andrew J. Rogers in that area along Big Sandy, one of them about three years older and the other about 25 years younger than our subject.

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George W. Rogers was born in Shelby County, Illinois, October 13, 1839, and was around 19 years old when arriving in Woodson County. He spent his boyhood in Illinois and Missouri. At the outbreak of the Civil War George W. Rogers went to Leavenworth where he enlisted in Co. E, Fifth Regiment, Kansas Volunteer Cavalry, on August 4, 1861. On this same day Martin V. B. Pearsoll and W. A. Rogers of Belmont enlisted in the same outfit. Evidently the three men from the Big Sandy area went together, riding their own horses.

This company was attached to the Western Department and saw service in Missouri, Arkansas, Tennessee, Mississippi, and Louisiana. He was in the battles of Pine Bluff and Helena, Ark. In 1864, George W. re-enlisted as a veteran, at St. Charles, Ark. He reached his home on Big Sandy, on July 17, 1865.

George W. Rogers was married to Miss Julia Ann Daniel on May 31, 1866. Julia was the daughter of Reuben and Mary Daniel, who were neighbors of the Rogers family along Big Sandy. Julia was born March 4, 1844, in Illinois. Julia was one of six children in this Reuben Daniel family. They were, William, John "Hooker", Jaret, Aley (Mrs. James Wix), Mrs. Rogers and Jemina.

George W. and Julia Rogers were the parents of five children, Noah, Charles, Maggie, Warren and Millard.

Noah married Mary Kluckuln (they were parents of seven children, Winnie, Essie, Hazel, Francis, Fred, Leona, Wayne.)

Charles married Hattie Dupey. Their children were, Clyde, Edna, Osa, Ressie, Harold, Lela and Leota.

Maggie married Charles Scott. Their six children were, Nellie, Lauren, Thelma, Wilmer, Theo and Zella.

Warren married Alta Bray. Their children were, Floyd and Earl.

Millard married Minnie Steinforth. They were parents of two daughters, Alice and Margaret.

* * * * * *

The log cabin homes and the homesteads of Geo. W. Rogers, his father, Andrew Rogers, and his father-in-law Reuben Daniel, were all joining in section 23, township 26, and Range 14, with Big Sandy Creek going through or touching each of these homesteads. Andrew Rogers land was the west half and the northeast 40 acres in the northwest quarter of the section. The Daniel homestead was the north 80 and the southwest 40 of the southwest quarter, and the Geo. W. Rogers land was the west 80 of the northeast quarter and the southeast 40 acres of the northwest quarter. Each homestead containing 120 acres.

Both Reuben Daniel and Andrew Rogers received the patent for their homesteads in 1869. Geo. W. got the patent for his land in 1871. The Big Sandy Cemetery was layed out on the homestead of Reuben Daniel. The first claim of Geo. W. was just to the north in section 14.

Besides farming his homestead, Geo. W. Rogers started a blacksmith shop that was very useful to a community at that time. Many a farmer made his way to the Rogers blacksmith shop. He was also an Elder in the Christian Church, and officiated at some of the early day marriages in the Big Sandy area.

The Family of Geo. W. and Julia Rogers. Picture taken about 1920, To keep from repeating the name Rogers so much we will use just the letter R. instead.

Back row l-r: Clyde R. Edna R., Winnis R., Osa R., Ressie R., Hazel, Minnie (Steinforth) and Millard Rogers, 2nd row: Warren and Alta (Bray) Rogers, Charles and Hattie (Dupey) Rogers, Noah and Mary (Kluckhuhn) Rogers, Charles and Maggie (Rogers) Scott, Theo Scott. 3rd row: Dell and G. W. Steinforth, Nancy Penturff, Geo. W. and Julia Rogers, Essie R., Fred R., Harold R., Nellie Scott. Front row: Wayne R., Lauren and Wilmer Scott, Earl and Floyd Rogers, Leota R., Thelma Scott, Leona R., Lela R., Alice and Margaret Rogers and Zella Scott were the only grandchildren not in this picture.

ORRIN C. ROSE —

While the writer of this never met Orrin Rose personally, we carried on an extensive correspondence with him over a period of several years. He was a fine writer and would write about Yates Center and Woodson County before 1900. He had a wonderful memory and the way that he described and told about different events was almost uncanny. We have page after page of his writing, all in long hand and as we said he was a fine writer. These writings have helped us very much in some of our research work and have much more to fall back on.

Orrin C. Rose was born December 20, 1875 on the homestead of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Amasa Rose four miles north of Yates Center along what is now US 75. This was the southwest quarter of section 23, township 24, range 15. His boyhood and young manhood was spent in this community known as the Pleasant View neighborhood. He attended the Pleasant View School District No. 35. Much of his writings were about this school and his schoolmates.

On March 29, 1900, Orrin C. Rose and Miss Rhoda Lamborn were married in the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Q. I. Lamborn, eight miles north and almost a mile east of Yates Center. They had a son Roy, who worked for the Howard Hughes Aircraft Co. Orrin C. Rose died July 29, 1968 at the age of 93 years. They had been married for 68 years at the time of his death. They had been living in Amarillo, Texas for 43 years.

Mr. Rose was past 80 years of age when at the suggestion of an old schoolmate, Miss Elizabeth Spencer, he started a series of letters and sent to 13 of his old schoolmates. This series continued for several years until his old friends had passed on, and much history of Woodson County especially the area of Pleasant View, north of Yates Center was recorded. We believe that Mrs. Jessie Stocker Manifold of Autumn Manor, is the only one of these old schoolmates living. When her sister, Edna Stocker Young passed away, her letters which were all typewritten were given to this writer.

These writings of Mr. Rose covered a variety of vivid descriptions of pioneer life on the farm, and the different types of machinery used. Some of these writings of his will appear in different forms in future issues of "In The Beginning." While the quarterly had just been started when Mr. Rose passed away, he had commented several times about the articles in the Yates Center News under the heading of "In The Beginning", and had said for us to use any of his writings that we would care to.

PLEASANT VIEW SCHOOL DISTRICT #35 –

(The forward part of this school history was written by a man named Orrin C. Rose, 82 years after his first day of school)

"Our school days began in September, 1881. There were five boys, no girls, in the class. They were Hayes, Coe, Charlie Brewer, Cleo Jackson, Harry Webster and Orrin Rose. The primary class was a hard one for a teacher like Mr. Chadwick. Perhaps that class was regarded as the nuisance class. The teacher knew nothing of the modern gadgets which teach and amuse little children, and he had so many pupils and so many classes which required his time. In those days there were from 40 to 50 pupils and a school room was much too small. The seats and desks were home made, of soft white pine. Those soft pine desks were surely ready made for the big boy who was fortunate to own a pocket knife. And when we speak of big boys they were there— Boys like John Baldwin, Will Carroll, Wellington Jackson, Sid Whelan, the Lossing boys and Archie Brown.

None of the schools were graded. Pupils were rated as First Reader on up to Fifth Reader. It seemed that some of these larger and older pupils came to school in the winter because there was nothing else for them to do. There was also big girls, Nellie Morris, Hattie Brown, Belle Wilson, Anna Wells. The larger boys would play, "One Old Cat" and town ball. You did not touch a runner to put him out—you threw the ball in front of him when he was off base and "Crossed him out." When a big snow came, about all of the boys in school would go rabbit hunting. Nobody had a watch and when we would get out of hearing the school bell we might be late for school.

The school room was heated by a big pot-bellied stove, which blistered your face and allowed your back to freeze, and located in the middle of the room. In school we got our three R's—reading, 'riting and rithemetic. Pleasant View always had a longer term of school and paid higher prices for teachers.

"Spare the rod, and spoil the child" was apparently unknown to some teachers. The large maple grove east of school house had been planted without the school in mind, and one of the most distasteful jobs we could be assigned was to go to that grove and cut long sprots for switches to intimidate some pupil or punish one."

* * * * * *

The pleasant View School was organized sometime in the 1870's and was located five miles north of Yates Center.

The Pleasant View School during the term of 1915-16. Front row, left to right: June Wolford and Max Wolford. 2nd row: Harry Steele, Charles Parish, Henrietta Wolford-Heffron, Elsie Morris-Richards, Walter Wolford, Chauncey Morris. 3rd row: Ethel Whittaker, Kate Wolford-Meyers, Josephine Parrish, Virgie Settlemeyer. 4th row: Fred Parish, Clair Steele, Roy McNutt, Roy Wolford. Back row: Dewey Settlemeyer, Arthur Whittaker-Teacher, and Myrl (A.M.) Weston.

* * * * *

We do not know who any of the teachers were past 1881. As told by Mr. Rose the teacher in 1881 was A. E. Chadwick, Lizzie Davidson, 82-83, Bertha Funston, '84; Lucy Ellis, 85-86; J. F. Woodruff, '87; Henry Bundy, '88; Barbara Harris, '89; C. A. Budd, '90; W. S. Jones, '91; Grace Smith, '92; Ella Ellis, '93. Like all other rural schools, there is a gap of five years in the county records. Ethel Harding, '98-99; Clara Trembley, 1900; Belle Herdman, '01; Ethel Rose, '02; Leo Blackman, '03; Ethel Pyke Spencer, '04; Mrs. Ol Spencer, '09 (Another gap of five years). Oma Gunlock, '10; Lucille Graham, 11-12; Eldon Gepharte, 13; Arthur Whittaker, '15-16;

Martha Krueger, '17; Ruth Augustine, '18; Nellie Wyse, '19; Reva Byfield, '20-21; Pearl Mentzer, 22; Nellie Wyse, 23; Myrtle Ruth, 24; Ethel Whittaker, '25; Nellie Wyse, '26-27; Kathryn Bell, '28; Nelle Cannady, '29; Truman Weston, '30-31; Edith Dawson, '32-33-34; Bertie Swilley, '35; Millie Thomas, '36-37-38-39; Elinore Stoll, '40; Judith Bragg, '41; Juanita Mentzer, '42; Mrs. Lucy Wait, '43; Mrs. Mary Wells, '44-45; Mrs. Evelyn Morris; '46; Mrs. Nellie Manifold, '47; Mrs. Mae Theobald, 1948. This was the last term of school at District #35.

BUTTERMILK STREET —

Perhaps the majority of our readers never heard of this place, but any one that has lived in the northwest part of Woodson County has probably heard of the people living over on Buttermilk Street. The north-south road on section line that divides North and Liberty townships and begins at the Coffey-Woodson county line or just over the county line and runs for about four miles south is or was Buttermilk Street. This road received its name over 80 years ago, and we have heard two versions of how it came to be called that.

The joint school district number 38 that in earlier years was known as the Raber School and later as Pleasant Hill and sometimes as Duck Creek School was the Community Center at that time. North of the school house and along Duck Creek was known as North Buttermilk and south of the school was South Buttermilk. The school at that time was a large stone building, but was later replaced with a frame building that still stands there, but was sold several years ago.

Along about the year 1895 there were about 17 houses on this four miles and close to either side of it. On the extreme north end just over in Coffey County was the Ira Martin farm and to the extreme south end was the John Klingenburg farm that for many years was known as the T. Q. (Tony) Allen farm. Beginning at the north end and going south from the Ira Martin farm were the homes of A. E. "Kid" McCartney and his mother; Mr. and Mrs. Charles Green, Mr. and Mrs. John Yoho, Mr. and Mrs. Israel Merrill, Mr. and Mrs. Guenther Baursfeld, Mr. and Mrs. J.E. Etter, who lived a half mile east of the school house, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Musgrove, Mr. and Mrs. Gavin Steele, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Ward, Mr. and Mrs. L. T. Montgomery, Mr. and Mrs. George Payne, George Yoho and family, Mr. and Mrs. Converse, Bent and Hattie Morgan.

The George Payne family had moved here from the state of Michigan and he was a carpenter by trade and did not know much about farming, while they kept a few cows they did not make much butter, but had a liking for buttermilk. The Jack Musgrove family lived a short distance to the north of them and Mrs. Musgrove made a lot of butter and so always had plenty of buttermilk at churning time. The Payne's would get a gallon or so of buttermilk each time Mrs. Musgrove would churn and Mrs. Payne would make a pudding or soup called buttermilk pop. She would add shortening, some flour and they would eat it with sweet crackers.

Another version of Buttermilk Street was that John Yoho upset a barrel of skimmed milk along this road. Anyway it was given the name of Buttermilk Street and is still known by some by that name.

In a copy of the Yates Center News of April 28, 1899, we find these items under the title "Buttermilk Street-North".

"Oats looking fine and all report a good stand.

Who were those rubbernecks at Wesley Chapel Saturday evening?

O, where did Gav Steele get that black mustache that he wore Saturday night.

A new residence on the south end of Buttermilk Street.

The play at Wesley Chapel was postponed on account of bad weather.—"Rosebud." "

Just who Rosebud was we are not certain.

The new residence mentioned as being built on south end of Buttermilk Street was a sod house of Mr. and Mrs. Pete Dycke (pronounced Dick). This house was made of native prairie sod. A sod plow with a small wheel on the beam that would regulate the depth was used. The sod was plowed in strips about a foot wide and six inches thick. This was cut in lengths of about three feet and put up in layers.

The Dycke's were a part of the German-Russian colony around Nikkletown. J. M. Sturdivan helped build this sod house. (We can remember as a small boy of having seen a large mound of dirt covered over with sod as being the remains of this old sod house. It still can be located.)

The play mentioned in the items was in fact two short plays that were given at the Wesley Chapel Church. The names of the two plays were "Three Glasses a Day" and "Jumbo Jim the Juggler".

At the present time there are only four occupied farm homes along this four miles. Starting at the north is the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Jones, then along Duck Creek, Adolph Zlab, then Norman Zlab family, then the homes of Wesley Spencer, Sr. and Wesley Spencer, Jr.

The writer lived for over 50 years a mile south and a half east of the south end of Buttermilk Street and traveled many miles up and down this road with horse and buggy and Model T Ford. People living along this road then were from the north "Kid" McCartney, Will Merrill Family, Dan Merrill family, Bill Receck, Jess Redick, Ed Etter, Homer Etter, Sam Delaughder, and Tony Allen families. Also "Sock" Jones, Charley Jasper, and perhaps others.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH & OWL CREEK PARISH —

Owl Creek was the first Catholic settlement in Woodson County and the fourth oldest parish in the Wichita Diocese. It was the regular stopping place for the famed missionaries Fathers Schoemaker and Ponziglioni, who visited the territory as early as 1858, when Father Ponziglioni offered Mass in the home of Thomas and Johanna Collins. These priests were stationed at the Osage Indian Mission near where St. Paul, Kansas now is.

The Parish was officially erected by degree as the Immaculate Conception Parish in 1868. The first church was built in 1868 when Father Anthony Kuhls supervised the building of a small 'board' church. At that time it game promise of developing into a large rural parish with a resident pastor, but it never reached that estate. It remained a mission during its lifetime. It was attached as a mission to Humboldt for a number of years, then to Piqua and then to Yates Center.

This small church was built in the northwest corner of the southeast quarter of section 24, Twp. 25, Range 16., along the south side of the road. In 1894 a new frame church replaced the small building. The 50th anniversary of its dedication was observed August 11, 1944.

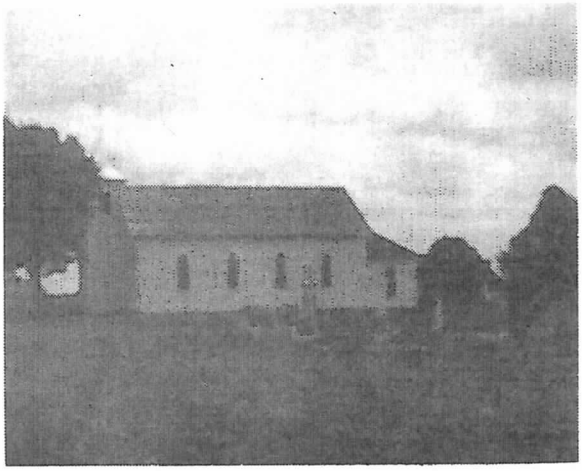
The parish seemed to be divided about equally between the Irish and the German members. At the beginning of the parish it was mostly Irish people. Later the German people settled in that vicinity. For awhile the German settlers had hope of having a church of their own. Not because they had a dislike for their Irish neighbors, but that they wanted a church of their own so that they could go to confession in German and have German sermons.

One of the leaders in the movement to establish a German parish was Henry Massoth. He opened a school for the German children and volunteered to be their teacher. The "school" was a small shack built of rough boards. It had no desks or blackboards. When ever a priest came to the settlement Mass offered in the school room.

The German Parish movement never seemed to materialize. There were not enough of the Germans and times were hard and money scarce so they joined their Irish neighbors and became members of the Irish Parish.

Thomas Collins was born in 1868, and was the first to be baptized in the small church that was built in 1868.

The last Holy Mass was offered in the frame church on Memorial Day, 1957—just 99 years after the first missionary offered Mass in that community.



The St. Mary's Catholic Church — Owl Creek Parish, as it looked not long before the building was torn down.

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Pastor's at the Owl Creek Parish —

During the first years of its existance as a parish Owl Creek was served by Jesuits from the Osage Mission. Among these priests were Schoemakers, Ponziglioni, Heller, Dieterman, Scholl, Perrier, Kuhls, and Kearful. The first diocesan priest to have charge of Owl Creek was Father Alexander Buechler, pastor of Piqua, from 1886-1893.

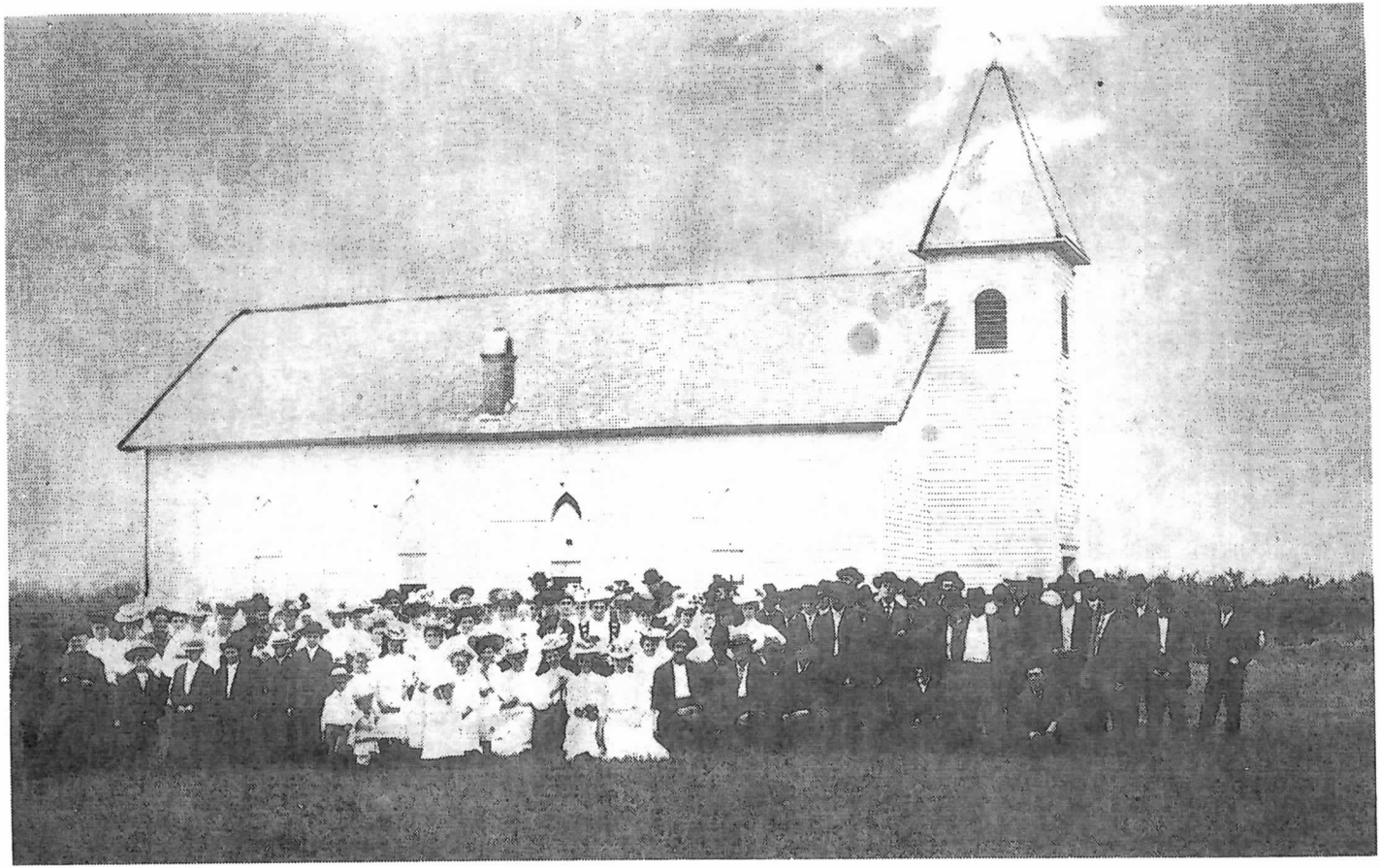
Nicholas Fowler, 1893-1912; August Heiman, 1912-1920; N. J. Staab, 1920-1926; Richard Dei, 1926-1931; Leo Debes, 1931-1933; Peter Staub, 1933-1936; Adolph Stremel, 1936-1938; Thomas Glynn, 1938-1940; John White, 1940-1942; Wenzel Birzer, 1942-1944; Francis Hay, 1944-1948; Joseph Schacht, 1948-1955; Michael Blackledge, 1955-1957.

* * * * *

Among the first settlers in this community to attend the Owl Creek Parish were Collins, Reedy, Fitzmorris, Lynch, Heffern, Drain, Hoag, Eisenbart, Franklin, O'Brien, McGannon, Link, Yohon, Wagner, Wyse, Massoth, perhaps others we have missed. At the time the picture on the opposite page was taken thought to be in 1910, there were at least 40 families going to this church. There were several families by the same last name attending this church at one time.

The Owl Creek Cemetery at the church was started at the time the church was built. Some of the first pioneer's of Woodson County are buried in this cemetery.

There are still several families in that area that bear the names of some of these first pioneers.



THE ENGLEBRECHT FAMILY –

It was along in early 1871, that a covered wagon pulled by a yoke of oxen slowly plodded its way towards Kansas, leaving their home in Ohio. Whether this wagon was with a wagon caravan or not was not told, but the wagon we will tell about belonged to the Henry Englebrecht family.

Coming in this wagon was Henry and his wife Louise, a daughter Henrietta Louise, who was born at Greerville, Ohio, and Frank Englebrecht, who was born at Louderville, Ohio. After a long journey they arrived in Kansas and coming on to Woodson County, and to the New York Valley community. While the story has been handed down that homestead was that of Henry Englebrecht, the patent was made out to his brother George who came here the same year. This homestead was the west 80 acres of the northeast quarter of section 34, Twp. 25 and Range 16. George Englebrecht received the deed to this 80 acres on May 16, 1876, after the family had lived the five years necessary to fulfill the requirements of the homestead law.

Henry Englebrecht was born in Germany in 1835. When Henry was 13 years old he came to America with his parents. They settled near Mansfield, Ohio.

In September, 1861, about five months after the Civil War broke out, Henry Englebrecht, about 26 years old, enlisted in Co. E. 3rd Ohio Cavalry. After serving three years and one month or until the close of the Civil War, Henry went back to his home in Ohio. Henry was the oldest child of Fred and Magdalene Englebrecht.

In 1866, Henry Englebrecht was married to Miss Louise Dahl, who was born in New York City, March 18, 1848. As a young girl Louise came to Ohio with her parents. She was the oldest of six children. She was married to Henry Englebrecht in the same year that she came to Ohio.

Henry and Louise Englebrecht were the parents of twelve children, two dying as infants. The others were Henrietta, Frank, George, John, Henry, Bertha, Rose, Walter, Belle and Mary. (These are probably not in chronology order.)

1-Henrietta was born in Ohio, April 4, 1867. She was married to John Herder, February 27, 1886. Their children were Edna, Jessie, Ruby and Myrtle.

Edna married Henry Timm. Their children were Ada Lucille, John and Floretta.

Jessie married Peter Smith. Their children were Lorraine, Olive and Lawrence.

Ruby never married.

Myrtle married Beryl Young.

2-Frank was born in Ohio, January 18, 1869. At the age of two years he moved with his parents to St. Joseph, Mo. by covered wagon. The next year they came on to the New York Valley, Woodson County, by covered wagon. On February 21, 1894, Frank and Augusta Wilhelma Smith were married. Augusta was born, April 1, 1874, in Woodson County. They spent their first 15 years of their married life on the old Defiance place before moving to Belmont township. They were the parents of nine children, Ralph, Fred, Charley, Frank, Walter, Ruth, Louise, Grace, and Alice.

Ralph married Clyta Mark. Their children were Lois and Dean.

Charles married Theo Scott. They had one son, Charles E.

Frank married Zella Scott. Their children are: Maynard, Mary Ann, Barbara and Frankie Ray.

Walter married Madena Cox. Their children: Sharon and Walter Wayne.

Louise married Floyd Pendlay. They have three daughters, Velma, Doris, and Wilma.

Grace married Herschel P. Eagle. Their children are Thelma, Vivian, Charles, Marvin and Lavonne.

Fred, Ruth and Alice never married.

3-George Fred Englebrecht was born July 16, 1871, just a short time after they arrived in Woodson County. Later he lived for 37 years in Belmont township on his farm before moving to Yates Center. He was married to Margie Allen, September 3, 1913. To this union one son, George Allen, was born in 1916. He died in 1919.

4-Henry Jr., who as a young man went west and never returned to this county, although some of his sisters heard from him.

5- Bertha married Julius Wooten. They had a son Ralph.

6-John was born on the homestead in 1874, a year before Yates Center became a town. He married Grace Hamlin. They had one daughter, Aletha, who married Mason Cummins.

At the age of 96 years John was still able to drive his car the seven miles to Yates Center from his farm on South Owl Creek, every week. He died October 1, 1974, just lacking one month of being 100 years old.

7-Walter, better known as Barney married. His children were Ila, Ruth Ann, Orville, John and Raymond.

8-Belle married Fred Reno. Their children were, Glenn, Kermit, Fred, Wanda Belle and Homer.

9.-Rose married - - Chambers. They had one son Clifford.

10-Mary married - - Moore. They had two girls, Veva and Dorothy.

George Englebrecht was born in Hesson Cassel, Germany April 26, 1844. He was the youngest of four that migrated to America with their parents in 1850. They came to and settled at Mansfield, Ohio.

At the age of 19, he enlisted as a private in Company L, of the 10th Ohio Cavalry. He was a bugler in Captain Kilpatricks Scouts when they were captured and imprisoned in Atlanta overnight or just until the Yankees won the Battle of Atlanta. As a bugler in the 10th Ohio Cavalry Private Englebrecht was a member of the unit that General Sherman took on his famous "March to the sea". During this drive he fought in both the battles of Charleston and Atlanta in 1865, the outcome of the latter being one of the deciding factors of the war.

Shortly after the close of the Civil War, George Englebrecht was married to Elizebeth Troll. They were the parents of one daughter, Sofia Katherine, who was born at Mansfield, Ohio, February 17, 1866.

In the spring of 1871, George, his wife and daughter and his mother came by train to St. Joseph, Mo. Here they purchased an ox team and wagon and continued their trip to Woodson County and to the New York Valley community.

In order to file on his homestead in section 34, Twp. 25, Range 16, it was necessary to go to Ft. Scott. He recalled that he had to wade and swim some of the creeks and rivers.

As he deeded this place to Louise Englebrecht in 1876, George and family moved to a Hartwick farm along Owl Creek. After about another five years the George Englebrecht family purchased and moved to a farm in the north half of the southeast quarter of section 29, Twp. 26, and Range 15. This was in October, 1883. This farmstead was indeed in the hills of Belmont.

Here on August 29, 1897, Sofia Englebrecht was married to George C. Sommers. They were the parents of six children, Mabel E., Freda A., John E., Ernest G., Rena E., and Estella.

George Englebrecht spent the remainder of his life on the farm. At the time of his death he was a member of the G.A.R. Sandy Valley Post No. 137. For several years he had been the only living veteran of the Civil War in Woodson County.

At his request a military funeral was held with the American Legion Post No. 13, conducting the services, with burial in the Belmont Cemetery.

Mr. Englebrecht was the last of the old Civil war soldiers in the county and was 96 years old. He died February 10, 1941, less than three months before his 97th birthday.

**Henry Englebrecht wife Louise -**

Unlike many of the early settlers of Woodson County there are many descendents of Henry and Louise Englebrecht, living within the county after around 106 years.

On March 2, 1876, about two months before George Englebrecht received the deed for the farm in Owl Creek township, George deeded the north forthy acres of the eighty to Louise, wife of Henry Englebrecht for $25.00. The same day George deeded the south forthy to Mr. Shamburg for the sum of $100.00. We were told that instead of the cash the Englebrecht's had received a team of mules for the forty.

Henry Englebrecht died December 28, 1913, at the age of 78 years, at their home in Yates Center. He was buried in the Kalida Cemetery, under the auspices of the Grand Army of the Republic.

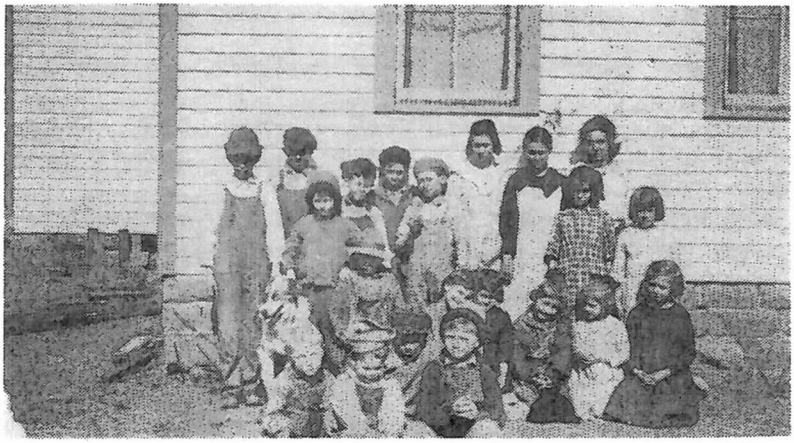
Lousie Englebrecht died February 18, 1924. Her parents were members of the Lutheran Church and she grew up in that faith, and died in that faith. She was buried in the Kalida Cemetery beside her husband.

OAKLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 44 —

Prior to the founding of this district some of the pupils attended school Dist. No. 13, which was along the present US 75, two and a half miles north of Yates Center. Sometime in 1875 the School District No. 44 was organized. By that time there were quite a few of school age in the district. At that time a small building was built for the school house. In 1905 this school house was sold and the school building known to most at this time was built.

Abe Smith was one of the early settlers in this district, and his daughter Marion, taught the first three months of school which was required before the district could be organized. Other families in the district at that time were the George Mentzer, Henry Cook, and several others.

The name of the school district was first called Oak Grove, so called because the black jack oak groves around near the school house. Later as there was another Oak Grove school to the southwest of Yates Center, Dist. No. 44 as known as the Poor Farm School as the county or Poor Farm was located less than a half mile to the south, but on the opposite side of the road. Sometime around 1920, the name of the school was changed to Oakland.



School Dist No. 44 - Spring, 1922 - Mrs. Wesley (Anna) Weide, teacher. Left to right standing, Wallace Culver, Harold Williams, Tye Mentzer, Edward Mentzer, Leo Williams, Ilo Weide, Nellie Culver, Edith Williams, Lola Culver, Mabel Culver, Daisy Culver. Kneeling - Dog ? , Lloyd Williams, Fleta, Mentzer, Helen Williams, Ellen Weide, Wilhelmina Weide, Viola Wrampe. Four little boys in front - George Weide, Austin Mentzer, John Lauber, Milton Wrampe.

Teachers of School Dist. #44 - in 1879, A. J. Jones was the teacher. Starting in 1881 the teachers were Lois Johnson, 1881-82-83; W.S. Jones, 84; Estella VanNorman, '87; Anna Patterson, 88-89; Belle Ridgeway, 90; Nettie Bauguess, 91; Anna Wells, 93-94; Cora Wilder, 97-98; Dottie Marple, 1900; Belle Withers, 01; Florence Barbee, 02; Edith Dumond, 03; Mary McCormick, 04; Kate Litton, 05; Bert Mentzer, 06; Agness Miller, 07; Nellie Burns, 08; Birdie Bryant, 09; Bertha Shepard, 15-16; Alvina Wrampe, 17; Veva Jeffries, 18; Emma Reed Kelley, 19; Neva Sager, 20; Clara McDaniels, 21; Anna Fell Weide, 22; Olive Richards, 22; Mabel McCormick, 23; Elfreda Fell, 24; Myrtle Ruth, 25-26; Alberta Smith, 27; Ruth Gooch, 28; Esther Watts, 29-30; Margaret Scott, 31-32; Cleo Theobald, 33-34; Mildred Smith, 35; Wilma Roberts, 36; Edna Mae Weide, 37; Virginia Stoll, 38-39; Mary Jane McMahon, 40; Mary Jane Allen 41-42; Mrs. Irma Smith, 43-44; Margaret O'Conner, 45; Francis Hougland, 46; Mrs. Ann Ireland, 47; Mrs. Nellie Manifold, 48; Ruby Carter, 49; Vivian Knotts Sexton, 50; Nellie Manifold, 51; Mardell Culbertson Englebrecht, 52, 53, 54; Ann Ireland, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59; Nora Shepard, 60, 61, 62; Barbara Stockebrand, first semester, 1963-64; last semester, Mary Ann Smith & Arlene Wesloh.

Oakland School, January, 1964 — Front row, Lloyd Hoyle, Bruce Seybold, Debbie Cope, Charlon Walker, Patricia Kuestersteffen. 2nd row: Floyd Hoyle, Susan Cope, Darla Leonard, Jean Kuestersteffen, Brenda Bogle, Janet Kuestersteffen, 3rd row:Charles Matile, Larry Trefethen, Marcia Rich, Patty Rich, Betty Hoyle, Cindy Leonard. Mrs. Barbara Stockebrand was the teacher.

Starting with the 1952 term of school, two other schools were consolidated with District 44. They were Cope, Dist. No. 62 and Prairie View Dist. No. 71. Dist. 44 was then made into a modern school, according to state specifications. Running water was pumped into the school from a never-failing well just outside of the school house.

A small school bus to pick up pupils of a distance was purchased about 1953. William McLaughlin being the bus driver most of the remaining terms.

The school term of 1964-65, was the last for this school. The school house contents and playground equipment were all sold at public auction. The pupils were transferred to Yates Center, consolidated school dist. #366. This was the closing of the last of the rural schools in Woodson County.

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A GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY —

As many of our readers know the editor of In The Beginning, and wife Edith celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on the 12th of February, 1978, however many of our readers probably knew nothing about it. So we will tell something about that and our family.

Lester A. Harding and Edith E. Williams were married February 17, 1928, at the Methodist parsonage in Yates Center by the Rev. A.W. Johnson. The groom's parents George and Belle Harding, and the bride's parents, John and Clara Williams were all present for the occasion.

Both Lester and Edith were born in Woodson County and have lived their entire married life in Woodson County, except about 20 months in Kansas City, Kansas during World War 2, when we both worked at the North American Aviation.

With this exception we lived on a farm 11 miles northwest of Yates Center, until moving to Yates Center in November, 1964. We are the parents of two daughters.

Dorothy Faye, was born November 12, 1928. She was married to Gerald Dean Osburn, Dec. 30, 1949. They are the parents of two sons, Kelly Dean and Lynn Gerald.

Alberta Marie, born May 24, 1930. She was married to Robert Eugene Edwards, May 28, 1948. They are the parents of three sons, Donald Lee, his twin Ronald Dee, died at birth and Bradley Craig.

Donald Lee married Theta Bonita McCormick. They have a son, Trenton Bruce.

All of this group with the exception of Gerald and Lynn Osburn were born in Woodson County.

The children and grandchildren were the hosts for the 50th Anniversary. Open house and reception was held at the Woodson House from 2 till 4, the afternoon of February 12. In spite of a downpour of rain all afternoon there were close to 150 people there.

My oldest brother Arthur Harding and his wife Melvina who were present for this occasion were married on the same day we were only 12 years before, celebrated their 62nd wedding anniversary as we celebrated our 50th.

The Lester and Edith Harding Family — Seated left to right: Alberta, Edith, Lester, Dorothy. Standing, Robert, Donald, Theda, with Trenton standing in front of them, Bradley, Lynn, Kelly and Gerald.

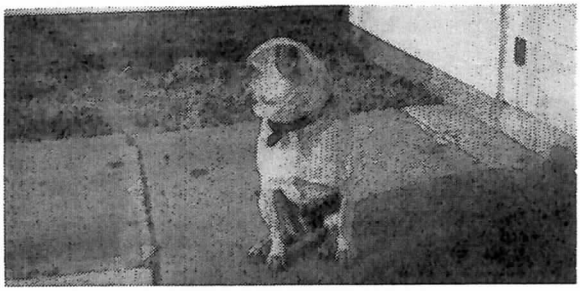
PUG - A DOG —

(This story of a dog was written by the editor back in November, 1962, and believe that it can stand repeating.)

In my work over the county I sometimes stop at the Piqua Grain Elevator. For several years as one would enter the elevator he would be greeted by a small pug-nosed dog. We do not know just what breed he is and his color would be hard to describe. Most every day this little dog can be seen at the elevator. The odd thing about it is that the dog does not belong to anyone at the elevator.

He used to have a tag on his collar with the name "Pug" Lynch with a Piqua phone number. "Pug" belonged to the Richard Lynch family. With Mr. Lynch gone most every day running a road maintainer for the county, and in school season Mrs. Lynch teaches school and the children gone to school, "Pug" evidently figured there was nothing to keep him home so he just "adopted" the elevator and crew. Many mornings he is at the elevator when the door opens, other times he comes later. There have been times when "Pug" would evidently over sleep but would see Lee Preston, the elevator manager, who lives at Iola, go by the Lynch home. "Pug" would know the pickup and start out for the elevator. He would not go after the pickup, but would cut through the back alley, skirting around Bill Riley's feed lot arriving at the elevator almost as soon as the pickup did.

Last summer when Johnny Kress, who works at the elevator, was away to National Guard camp, "Pug" evidently thought he wasn't getting enough attention and quit coming to the elevator until after Johnny came back. Most any day now "Pug" can still be found "loafing" on the floor of the elevator office.



The day after the story of "Pug" appeared in the Yates Center News we received a telephone call from the Piqua Grain Co. to tell us that "Pug" was hit and killed by a train at Piqua on Tuesday — the day that we took the story to the paper. "Pug", the friendly little dog was greatly missed at the elevator. "Pug" was around seven years old.

## PATRONS OF WOODSON COUNTY HISTORICAL QUARTERLY

Brown's Western Auto
Milton & Virginia Schornick
Kenneth & Barbara Stockebrand
John V. Glades Agency
Woodson Co. Co-op
Street Abstract Co. Inc.
State Exchange Bank
Self Service Grocery
Krueger's Variety & Dry Goods
HiWay Food Basket
Bill Herman
Piqua Farmer's Co-op
Gaulding Oil Co.
Donald E. Ward
Morton Equipment Co.
Swope & Son Implement Co.
Campbell Plumbing & Electric
Clyde Hill
Cantrell Pontiac-Buick
Paul C. Laidlaw
Rogers Bros. Garage
Newtex Manufacturing Co.
J. C. Schnell
W. D. Smith & Son Furniture
Superior Building Supply, Inc.
Glen Shaw
Pringle Ranch, J.W. & J. Richards
Herring Hardware & Supply
Edwin G. Reid, St. Louis, Mo.
Rex Butler, Nashville, Tenn.
J & W Manufacturing Co.
Kimbell Ranch-Ed Kimbell
Woody's Cafe
Edwin H. Bideau Associate Agencies-Chanute
First National Bank-Toronto
Blackjack Cattle Co. Inc.
Yates Center Elevator
Wilma Mark
Jasper's Shopping Spot
Bill Taylor-Gen. Agent Woodson Co. Farm Bureau
Atkin Clinic
Daly Western Supply
Pyeatte-Jaynes Ins. Agency
Dyer Chevrolet
Linde Barber Shop
House of Fabrics
Milton & Marcella Wrampe
E. E. Light
Atkin Rexall Pharmacy
Gambles Friendly Store
Campbell Funeral Home
Mr. & Mrs. Glen Baker
Piqua State Bank
Wendall McMurray
Everybody's Grocery
McGinty-Coffman Dept. Store
Al's Jewelry